

2004 Italian

Advanced Higher – Reading & Translation

Finalised Marking Instructions

Italian Advanced Higher 2004

Reading and Translation

La biblioteca vivente

1. The author refers to Italy, a country in which there is a severe shortage of public libraries, as *il paese dei paradossi*.

- (a) What paradoxes does she mention? Give any two.

Seven million internet subscribers but 50% of children do not complete secondary schooling / thirty million mobile phones but less than five million daily newspapers sold each day / if we consider ratio of libraries per head of population Italy is in last place amongst European countries (any two)

2

- (b) Why is the Italian government to blame for the lack of public libraries?

They are not interested in public libraries / they do not appreciate how public libraries can improve the quality of people's lives.

2

2. Paragraph three gives two quotations, the first from the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*, the second from the President of the European Commission.

Choose either quotation and explain the significance.

The first quotation states that people only read what they have to eg advertising slogans, newspaper headlines, signs / they derive no pleasure from reading / they are not illiterate, but are not readers either / in future only small minorities of privileged people will read such as chess players or opera lovers / a situation that the author thinks is absurd.

OR

The second quotation reminds us that we can be stupid but wealthy for only a generation / you can become rich through effort alone / but if this richness is not accompanied by cultural investment / our prosperity will decline / as the economic welfare of the country depends on a good education system (which includes libraries).

5

3. (a) **What are we told about the situation in other countries?**
 American libraries have had increased funding / France and Scandinavian countries have continued to build new libraries 2
- (b) **Which features of public libraries in English-speaking countries are mentioned?**
 Free access/policy of promoting reading 2
- (c) **What effect has the lack of investment in Italian public libraries had on the population?**
 Tens of millions of adults are unfamiliar with books 1
4. **The author now talks about changing lifestyles and how public libraries will have to adapt.**
- (a) **How have changes in the structural layout of cities affected people's lives?
 Give one example of what can happen.**
 There are no longer any meeting places / for people who do not know each other or for different generations **OR** child can grow up / without ever seeing another old person other than their grandfather **OR** children can grow up / without seeing any other animal except their neighbour's dog **OR** we close ourselves in our houses / with only TV or Internet to link us with the outside world **OR** chat lines have taken the place / of real conversations. 2
- (b) **What main roles should Italian public libraries have in future?
 Mention three roles proposed by the author.**
 Community meeting place/venue for Alcoholics Anonymous and consumer groups / place where pensioners and young people can meet new friends. 3

5. The author talks about the features she believes all public libraries should have and their importance for young children.

(a) How can public libraries improve their collections?

Invest in multimedia / update their collections frequently. 2

(b) What qualities should staff have? Give any two.

They should be competent/attentive/highly motivated (any two). 2

(c) How do young children interact with books? Give any two details.

They handle them (a lot) / they move them about / they turn over the pages impatiently / they look for pictures / they listen to their mothers read them stories (any two). 2

6. Consider how the author presents *the facts of her argument* to the reader.

**How does she try to convince us of the validity of her message?
Support your answer with detailed references to the text.**

Uses statistics in the first paragraph to back up her argument / in paragraphs two and four compares situation in Italy with that abroad / uses quotations in paragraph three from a newspaper and a famous politician to lend credence to her argument / in paragraph five relates the problem to changes in society itself caused by the restructuring of cities / gives concrete examples of the lack of communication (eg child who has never seen any animal apart from the neighbour's dog) which validate her argument and give it additional impact / tone in paragraphs six to eight is emphatic, ie she is convinced that the picture she presents is indeed the future and that there can be no other way (as shown by constant use of verbs and expressions such as *dovere, aver bisogno di, future of essere, diventare, aver diritto, richiedere*)/the final paragraph gives a precise vision of the future that she wishes the reader to share and accept / tone is once again strident, confident and almost evangelical 5

(NB Questions 2 and 6 require candidates to display appropriate inferencing skills. Points given above illustrate inferences which are clearly appropriate. Markers should use their own professional judgement regarding the appropriateness of any other differences drawn by the candidate.)

Translation into English

The translation into English is allocated 20 marks. The text for translation will be divided into 10 sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks, which will be awarded according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. In assessing the candidate's performance, the descriptions detailed below will be used. Each sense unit will be awarded one of the marks shown.

Category	Mark	Description
Good	2	Essential information and relevant details are understood and conveyed clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.
Satisfactory	1	Essential information is understood and conveyed clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. The key message is conveyed in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English.
Unsatisfactory	0	The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential information and relevant details. Errors may include mistranslation and/or the failure to translate relevant details.

7. **Translate into English: *Per concludere...di questo progetto.***

(lines 140-154)

Suggested translation (other versions are acceptable):

I would like to finish by saying that the public library of the future will bring together / different ages, cultures, and ways of learning. / It will not specialise in any one area / and will be easy to use and well frequented by the public. / We require an integrated system where libraries, schools, newspapers, publishers and computer networks / will improve the quality of life of our citizens / and enable them to obtain the necessary information / to be able to compete in the global economy. / We need a policy of investment in libraries / as the principal means of achieving this goal.

20
Total = 50

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]